

E.J.H. 1966).

In the present case branching is presumed to be due to injury to apical bud caused by strong winds, as these plants grow near the sea shore on

the east coast.

October 29, 1990

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37. NEW RECORDS OF THREE GRASSES AND ONE SEDGE FROM ORISSA

During the course of a study on the flora of Keonjhar district of Orissa, a number of plants previously not reported from the state were found. The present report records four such species, three of Poaceae and one of Cyperaceae: *Scirpus roylei* (Nees) Parker, *Digitaria setigera* Roth, *Eragrostis nigra* Nees ex Steud. and *Panicum humidorum* Buch.-Ham. ex Hook. f. All these are new records for Orissa. The taxa are enumerated with nomenclatural citations, brief descriptions and distributional notes.

CYPERACEAE

Scirpus roylei (Nees) Parker in Duthie, Fl. Upper Gang. Pl., 3: 361. 1929; Shah in J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc., 66: 233. 1969. *Isolepis roylei* Nees in Wt. Contrib., 107. 1834. *Scirpus quinquefarius* Ham. ex Boeck. in Linnaea, 36: 701. 1869-70; Clarke in Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India, 6: 657. 1893; Prain, Beng. Pl., 2: 1160. 1903.

Wild erect sedges. Stem slender, terete, transversely septate when dry; sheath mouth oblique, truncate. Leaves almost nil. Inflorescence of spikelet in dense head; spikelets ovoid-oblong, obtuse, slightly compressed, brown shining; glumes inflated in fruit, elliptic-lanceolate, membranous, acute to mucronate, apex shortly recurved, keeled, tapering at base; stamens 3, 5-6 mm long; anthers linear, obtuse; ovary obovoid; styles 3 fid, 2-3 mm long; stigma 3. Fruits nut, obovoid, trigonous, apiculate.

Flowering and fruiting: November-January.

Occurrence: Common.

Locality: Pithogora, 20 Dec. 1983, *Mondal*, 399, 964.

The earlier reports of the species have been from Bihar, Assam, and Madhya Pradesh. So the present report in Orissa is a new record for the state and extension of its distribution towards the southern part of India.

POACEAE

Digitaria setigera Roth. in Roem. & Schult. Syst. Veg., 2: 474. 1871; Henr. Monogr. Digit., 684. 1950;

Bor, Webbia, 11: 344. 1955 & Grass. Burma, Ceylon, India and Pakistan, 305. 1960. *Paspalum sanguinale* Lamk. var *extensum* Hook. f. in Fl. Brit. India, 7: 15. 1897; Fischer, Fl. Madras, 3: 1764. 1934.

Annual, long erect grass. Stem slender, glabrous. Leaves linear, acute, rounded at base, flat, margin scabrous, 110-112 mm long, 4-5 mm wide; sheaths long; rachis slender, triquetrous, narrowly winged. Spikelets 1 floret oblong, acute, bearded, 3-4 mm long, 0.5-0.8 mm wide; glume 1 minute, scaly; glume 2 membranous, about half as long as lower lemma; lemma ovate oblong, acute, membranous, 3-5 nerved, palea subchartaceous.

Flowering and fruiting: October-November.

Occurrence: Common.

Locality: Silua village, 13 Aug. 1983, *Mondal*, 20.

Though this taxa is widespread in all the warmer states of India, it was not earlier reported from Orissa. So the present collection in Keonjhar is a new record for the state.

Eragrostis nigra Nees ex Steud., Syn. pl. Glum., 1: 267. 1854; Stapf in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India. 7: 324. 1897; Fischer, Fl. Madras, 3: 1827. 1934; Bor, Grass. Burma, Ceylon, India and Pakistan, 511. 1960.

Perennial wild erect grass, leafy at base. Leaves flat at base, elongate above; 60-200 mm long, 1-2 mm wide; mouth of sheaths bearded; basal sheaths narrow, terete. Inflorescence panicle, very long, up to 60 cm broad, branches simple below; pedicels longer than spikelets. Spikelets olive-grey, linear to oblong, 3-9 flowered, 5-6 mm long; glume 1 and 2 membranous, subequal, acuminate, keels scabrid; lemma ovate, acute, 0.8-1 mm long; palea obtuse, denticulate, persistent; stamens 3. Caryopsis dorsally slightly grooved.

Flowering and fruiting: June-September.

Occurrence: Rare.

Locality: Silua village, 13 Aug. 1983, *Mondal*, 17.

The present collection establishes the continuous distribution of the taxon from north to south India, i.e. Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Bihar, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala,

Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Panicum humidorum Buch.-Ham. ex Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India, 7: 53. 1897; Bor, Grass. Burma, Ceylon, India and Pakistan, 326. 1960.

Perennial, wild, slender grass. Leaves linear, shortly cordate at base, 8-10 mm wide. Inflorescence panicle, large; pedicels capillary, smooth; spikelets ellipsoid, obtuse, glabrous, 0.8-1 mm long; glume 1 obtuse, 3-nerved, shorter; glume 2 and lemma obscurely 3-nerved. In lower florets lemma epaleate. Upper florets hermaphrodite; lemma ovate, 1-1.2 mm

long, smooth; palea as long as lemma.

Flowering and fruiting: October-December.

Occurrence: Rare.

Locality: Hatgarh forest near Salindi river, 12 Dec. 1984, Mondal, 827.

The taxon has been recorded only from Assam, Meghalaya and Bangladesh. The present collection forms a new record for Orissa.

PAPIA MONDAL
P.K. MUKHERJEE

June 7, 1990

38. TWO NEW PLANT RECORDS FROM ANDHRA PRADESH (With two text-figures)

While studying the flora of Nizamabad district in Andhra Pradesh two rare plants were collected. The species were identified as *Elytrophorus spicatus* (Willd.) A. Camus, and *Rumex dentatus* L. which have not been reported earlier from Andhra Pradesh. Illustrations and distinguishing characters are given for each of these species to facilitate their easy

identification. The citation and comprehensive distribution data are included.

Elytrophorus spicatus (Willd.) A. Camus in Lecomte, Fl. Gen. Indochine 7 : 547. 1923; Gamble 1843 (1275); Bor 493. *Dactylis spicata* Willd. in Ges. Naturf. Freunde Berlin Neue Schriften 3:416. 1801. *Elytrophorus articulatus* Beauv., Ess. Agrost. 67. t.

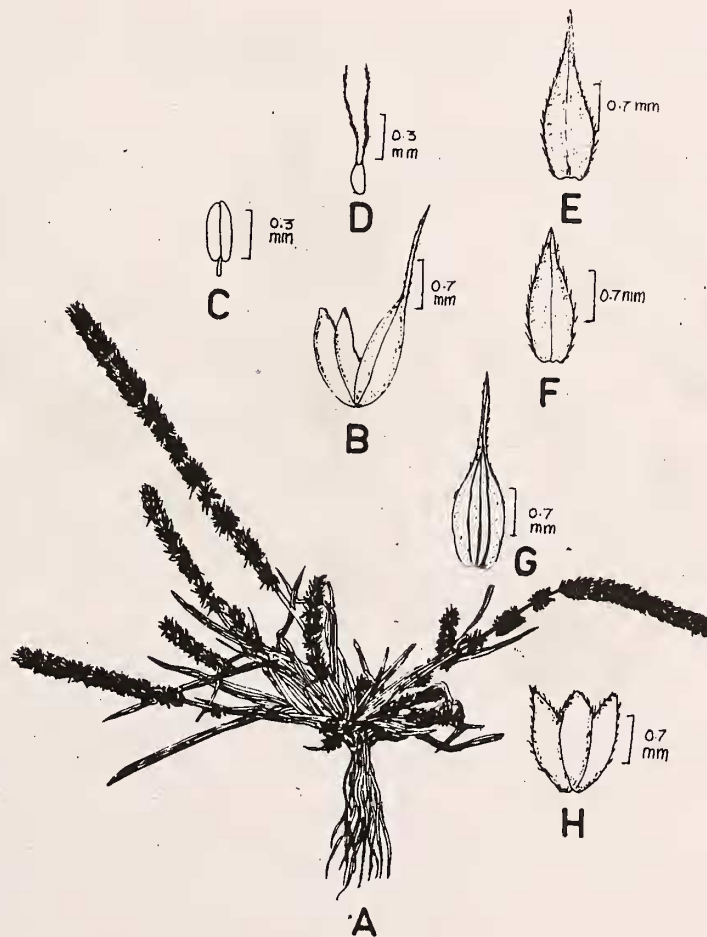


Fig. 1. *Elytrophorus spicatus* (Willd.) A. Camus

A. Habit, B. Spikelet, C. Stamen, D. Pistil, E. Upper glume, F. Lower glume, G. Lemma, H. Palea.